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BOOK NOTICES.

A Treatise on the Law of Railroads. By H. G. Wood. Second edition, by H. D. Minor. Three volumes. Price, \$18.00 net. The Boston Book Company, Boston, Mass.

The first edition of this valuable work appeared in 1885, embodying the results of the author's wide experience and deep learning. It has enjoyed an enviable reputation as a scholarly and masterful treatment of one of the most important departments of modern law. The author's style is clear, copious, and flowing, making the work very readable and attractive. The various topics are treated in sufficient detail for all practical purposes. And yet we find no reference to the "standard bill of lading," the construction and binding force of which have become a most important matter; nor do we find any discussion of the right of the railroad company to insist upon the presentation of the bill of lading as a condition precedent to the delivery of goods. These points are, however, embraced in principle in the discussion of the right of the carrier to limit by contract its common law liability as a carrier, and its duty to deliver to the right person. It is a discussion of the law as it is found in the decided cases, and does not—save in few instances—indulge in abstract theory or speculation. It is for the lawyer in active practice, rather than for the dreaming philosopher who would devise an harmonious system of law scientifically classified. The chapter on corporate powers and therein of *ultra vires* acts is forcible and very satisfactory. The various rules concerning this subject are clearly stated as they have been acted upon by the courts. The author evidently would favor the abolition of the common law prohibition of merely unauthorized corporate acts, leaving the validity of corporate contracts to depend upon the same principles as the contracts of individuals, reserving to the state, however, the right to punish corporations for violations of public policy, and to share-holders the right to disaffirm unauthorized acts of their agents. The work of revision is well and skillfully done. Many recent cases have been cited and the gist of the more important embodied in the text and notes. One new chapter on the subject of "Railroads in Streets and Highways," has been added. New sections have been inserted, and some old ones re-written to make them con-

form to later decisions. Railroad law has developed rapidly in the last nine years, and a real service has been done the profession in presenting a revised edition of this standard treatise.

Elements of the American Law of Sales of Personal Property. By Irving Browne. 1894. Sheep, \$2.50; leatherette, \$2.00, net. The Boston Book Company, Boston, Mass.

This little book of two hundred pages contains a concise explanation of the principles of the contract of sale. The author has followed the general arrangement of Benjamin on Sales, but the work is by no means a mere digest. The text is based, almost exclusively, on American decisions; most of the citations being from the "American" system of reports. The style is remarkable for its brevity and clearness. While the book is primarily intended for the use of students, it is well worth its cost to any lawyer.

"The Pattee Series." Illustrative Cases for Law School Use. By W. S. Pattee, LL.D., Dean of the College of Law, University of Minnesota, assisted by Prof. James Paige, LL.M., of the same College. T. & J. W. Johnson & Co., 535 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Pattee Series of Illustrative Cases is a very happy blending of the advantages of the "Case Method," the system of legal instruction in vogue at Harvard, with the "Dwight Method" which is adopted by most of the other American Law Schools. Usually, efforts to combine the two methods have resulted in the presentation of the case to the student as being merely corroborative of some principle enunciated in the class-room, rather than in allowing him to discover the principle for himself, from the inductive reasoning in the case, after being guided by some general statement from the instructor. It is the object of this entire series to make a clear and accurate statement of that part of jurisprudence with which the several volumes respectively deal, and to accompany each statement with a case illustrating its application. Such a combination of principle and "Illustrative Case" aids both the understanding and the memory. A brief review of each of the volumes already published follows:

Illustrative Cases in Partnership. By James Paige. Price, \$2.00.

On the first page of the collection of cases on Partnership, is given an Analytical table, outlining four divisions of the subject. A. How Partnerships are formed. B. Powers, Rights, Duties and